

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 SPM-01 EB-11 AID-20 COME-00

SWF-02 L-03 OIC-04 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SCI-06 HEW-08 PA-04

PRS-01 USIA-15 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 EA-11

AF-10 ARA-16 EUR-25 DRC-01 /179 W

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P R 090451Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2982

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECAFE

SUBJ: ECAFE MEETING, BANGKOK, MAY 6-10 IN PREPARATION FOR  
WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 86753

1. USAID POPULATION OFFICERS HAVE DISCUSSED SUBJECT OF WORLD POPULATION YEAR (WPY) AND WPY CONFERENCE ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS WITH BDG PLANNING COMMISSION (PC) AND MIN H/FP OFFICIALS. IN ADDITION, US AND UN DRAFTS OF WORLD POPULATION PLAN OF ACTION (WPPA) HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO THESE OFFICIALS FOR REVIEW AND COMMENT. TO DATE WE HAVE NOT REPEAT NOT BEEN ABLE TO ELICIT SPECIFIC COMMENTS ON EITHER DRAFT.

2. POPULATION OFFICERS HAVE ALSO STRESSED TO BDG OFFICIALS THE IMPORTANCE OF WPY CONFERENCE AND NEED FOR BDG TO SEND SENIOR DELEGATION TO ATTEND CONFERENCE. BDG THOUGHTS ON IMPORTANCE OF CONFERENCE AND NEED FOR BDG SENIOR DELEGATION APPEAR MIXED. A FEW BDG OFFICIALS ARE ATTEMPTING TO CONVINCE PRIME MINISTER THAT HE SHOULD LEAD BDG DELEGATION. OTHER OFFICIALS BELIEVE CONFERENCE TO BE OF MINIMAL IMPORTANCE AND HAVE SUGGESTED MIDDLE-LEVEL DELEGA-  
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TION. TO DATE SECRETARY, MIN H/FP, HAS DRAWN UP LIST OF POSSIBLE

DELEGATES (MAINLY FROM MEDICAL FIELD) AND HAS SUBMITTED LIST TO PRIME MINISTER FOR APPROVAL. WE UNDERSTAND FROM PC THAT PRIME MINISTER ASKED SECRETARY, H/FP, TO SUBMIT FILE TO DEPUTY CHAIRMAN PC FOR COMMENTS. THIS ACTION NOT YET TAKEN.

3. FOLLOWING EXAMPLE MAY GIVE BEST INDICATION OF LEVEL OF INTEREST BDG HAS FOR WPY CONFERENCE: WHEN REFTEL RECEIVED AND DISCUSSED WITH MIN H/FP OFFICIALS, USAID WAS INFORMED THAT PC HAD JUST NOTIFIED MIN H/FP OF BANGKOK MEETING. MIN H/FP BELIEVED NOTICE TOO SHORT TO NOMINATE AND CLEAR CANDIDATE FOR CONFERENCE. USAID POPULATION OFFICER AGAIN STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF WPY CONFERENCE. WE HAVE NOW BEEN INFORMED THAT DR. ABDUS SOBHAN CHOUDHURI, JT. SECRETARY, MIN H/FP, HAS BEEN SENT TO BANGKOK TO ATTEND CONFERENCE. FYI. CHOUDHURI WAS FORMERLY CHIEF, HEALTH, FP AND SOCIAL WELFARE SECTION OF PAKISTAN PC. HE IS RECENT RETURNEE TO BANGLADESH. ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS HE HAS EXPRESSED DEEP APPRECIATION FOR ALL THE ASSISTANCE USG OFFICIALS GAVE HIM WHILE HE WAS INTERNED IN PAKISTAN. WE THINK HE WOULD BE MOST WILLING LISTEN TO USG POSITION ON WPPA BUT DOUBT IF HE HAS THE AUTHORITY TO MAKE SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS AT BANGKOK. END FYI.

4. WE BELIEVE BDG WOULD BE SYMPATHETIC TO US DRAFT OF WPPA AS BDG FIVE YEAR PLAN COMMITS BDG TO SIMILAR POPULATION GROWTH TARGETS. WE DOUBT, HOWEVER, THAT BDG WOULD TAKE ANY POSITION ON WPPA THAT APPEARS TO BE IN OPPOSITION TO CONFERENCE CONSENSUS. DECONTROL FOLLOWING MAY 8, 1975.  
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**Disposition Authority:** GarlanWA  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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